

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 remain in this application. Claims 1-7 have been amended and new claim 8 has been added. The specification has been amended to correct obvious errors.

The Examiner objected to claim 7 based on improper form. To overcome this objection, claim 7 is amended and made dependent on amended claim 2. Claims 1 and 4 to which the Examiner also made objections have also been amended. However, these have been amended so as to provide proper antecedent for the claims that depend thereon. Applicant notes that there is no requirement for the words "the steps of" after "comprising." It is clear that these are method claims without the use of such language.

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's comments and these have been taken into consideration in amending the claims.

The amendments have also taken into consideration the Examiner's rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112 (2). It is believed that, as amended, all claims now comply with under 35 U.S.C. §112 (2). To clarify the characteristic features of the respective claims 4 to 7, these claims have been amended as indicated in the following table.

prior claims	Amended claims
Claim 1	Claim 1
Claim 4	Claim 2
Claim 5 and Claim 6	Claim 3
Claim 3	Claim 4
	Claim 5
	Claim 6
Claim 7	Claim 7
	Claim 8

In amending the claims, the following has been done:

- Claim 1 is clarified by adding a description indicating how to obtain the correction value.
- Claim 2 corresponds to the first embodiment (Fig. 2).
- Claim 3 covers the second embodiment (Figs. 4 and 5).
- Claim 4 corresponds to the former claim 3.
- The claims have been amended to distinguish between the different color matchings that take place by using different modifiers.
- In amended claim 1 the nature of the color matching by applying a correction value is clarified.
- The Examiner's question regarding the term "preparatory operation" is answered by the amendments which make it clear that the generic preparatory operation of claim 1 is further defined in claims 2 and 3 directed to the specific embodiments.

The Examiner also rejected the claims under 35 U.S.C. §103 as obvious over Yamada et al. in view of Liang. Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections. First Applicant will consider the teaching of these references.

Yamada et al.

As described in the Abstract, it is clear that Yamada et al. is an invention that relates to a method and apparatus for performing color image processing and includes:

- a. inputting a standard color image signal;
- b. performing color correction on the standard color image signal using a predetermined parameter to produce a color corrected standard color image signal;
- c. encoding the color-corrected standard color image signal to produce an encoded standard color image signal; and
- d. decoding the encoded standard color image signal to produce a decoded standard color image signal.

As stated in the final sentence of the Abstract, the predetermined parameter is determined on the basis of both the standard color image signal and the decoded standard color image signal. In other words, it is essential to have the above-mentioned steps in the operation to obtain the predetermined parameter to carry out the color matching operation. To carry out the above mentioned step of operation, the respective working steps are necessary, as precisely understood from the explanation of the respective embodiments.

As one of the characteristic features of Yamada et al., the following feature must be kept in mind. That is, the disclosure, column 5, from line 63 to line 65, and the disclosure from column 7, line 47 to line 60, indicates that Yamada et al. has as a characteristic feature the ability to carry out the color matching operation, even if the kind of communication apparatus changes.

Liang

Liang describes an apparatus in which a single computer system 10 displays images on two displays 12, 14. In order to achieve the result that the two displayed images derived from a single color signal transmitted from the computer 10 shall have the same appearance to the average observer (column 4, line 59 to column 5, line 3), a correction factor is applied to the signal as directed to one of the displays (the adaptor 22 of Fig. 1).

This correction factor is derived as illustrated in Fig. 2, where a colorimeter 36 is used to measure both displays of a single computer system when a standard color image is supplied to the above mentioned two displays. Therefore, it is clear that the Examiner's understanding stated in paragraph 5, from the third line from the bottom of page 4 to the fourth line from the top of page 5 of the office action, is incorrect.

The claims are not obvious in view of 35 U.S.C. §103

Yamada et al.

The Examiner's view stated in paragraph 3, in view of the teaching of this reference noted above, must be understood as relating to one of the methods for carrying out the color matching operation in transmission of a color image between a pair of computer image processing systems

A and B. The Examiner recognized that this reference failed to teach a preparatory step and color matching step. As amended, claim 1 even more clearly distinguishes over this reference. Specifically it has been amended to further define the preparatory operation as comprising steps of displaying, doing color matching and reading of correction data.

It should be very clear that the present claims define over the teaching of Yamada et al. That is, even though Yamada et al. also utilize a common standard color image like RGB, their technical manner of utilizing such a standard color image is quite different from what is claimed. That is, Yamada et al, need the operations set out in the Abstract and detailed description to obtain a correction value, while on the contrary, the present invention can attain the correction value in very simple way by reading respective correction data from a dialog box indicated on the monitor of the system where the color matching operation is carried out.

Aside from this characteristic difference, the correction value obtained in the present invention is restricted to the digital image transmission between the systems A and B, while on the contrary, Yamada et al. clearly has the characteristic feature of carrying out a color matching operation, even if the kind of communication apparatus changes.

Liang

Liang does not make up for the deficiencies in Yamada et al. He is concerned only with achieving the same color display on two monitors attached to the same computer, and is not concerned with achieving fidelity of the original color image. By contrast, the present claims are directed to achieving a display, by a second computer image processing system, as close as possible to the original image. Therefore, the Examiner's position stated in paragraph 5 of the Office Action is incorrect.

Furthermore, a combination of Yamada et al. and Liang is not suggested to a person of skill in the art, because of the difference of the basic technical approach of Liang from the present invention as clearly pointed out in the above explanation related to Liang. That is to say, nothing in Liang would suggest modifying Yamada et al. so as to reach what is claimed. Beyond

that is should be clear from what is stated above that even if combined, one would not have what is claimed in the amended claims. As amended, claim 1 clearly distinguishes from Yamada et al., by including the process to obtain the correction value. Nothing in Liang suggests adding these steps. The remaining claims all depend either directly or indirectly on claim 1 and are also allowable.

With regard to the rejection of original claim 3 corresponding to amended claim 4, applicant notes the following:

The mode of utilization of the RGB common standard color image of Yamada et al. is quite different from the mode of utilization of the RGB common standard color image in the present invention. As it is very clear from the disclosure of Yamada et al., even though the RGB common standard color image is utilized, this standard color image is encoded to produce an encoded standard color image signal and then further decoded to produce a decoded standard color signal to process the color matching operation. However, in the present invention, the RGB common standard color image is simply utilized to find a correction value, as is clear from the preparatory operation clearly defined in amended claim 1. Thus, claim 4 further defines over the art.

In view of the above, all claims are now in condition for allowance, prompt notice of which is respectfully solicited.

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (202) 220-4200 to discuss any information concerning this application.

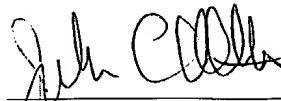
Applicants respectfully request a two month Extension of Time to respond to the Office Action of June 18. The extended period expires November 18, 2004.

Appl. No. 09/749,413
Amdt. dated November 18, 2004
Reply to Office Action of June 18, 2004

The Office is hereby authorized to charge the fee of \$430.00 for a Petition for Extension of Time Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) and any additional fees under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or § 1.17 or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

Respectfully submitted,

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